



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Man Sentenced for Baby's Killing

A 24-year-old man convicted of second-degree murder and assault on a child causing death was sentenced today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Taraneh Saba said Stephen Douglas Hoffman was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Thomas C. Falls in Pomona.

A jury convicted Hoffman on Feb. 25 of beating his girlfriend's 16-month-old baby to death.

The prosecutor said on Aug. 13, 2011, Hoffman was watching Malaikye Payne while the child's mother was at work on an overnight shift.

At around 2:20 a.m., Hoffman texted the mother an image of the boy with a developing bruise on his face. Hoffman told her that the child fell off the bed and onto a toy.

The mother returned home after work and went to bed at 6 a.m. Three hours later, she was alerted by Hoffman that Malaikye was having difficulty breathing and she called 911.

The child was brain dead upon arrival at the hospital. He was taken off life-support on Aug. 15, 2011, Saba said.

A few months after the child died, Hoffman changed his story and said the child was jumping on the bed and fell on the floor, the prosecutor added.

Coroner's officials testified in court that the baby sustained as many as 21 blows to the head. Additionally, doctors from the hospital said during the trial that it was one of the worst injuries they had seen on a child.

The case was investigated by the Azusa Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Homicide Bureau.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.